

ACTION WHA-00

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RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	CCO-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00	INL-00
DNI-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	PERC-00	DS-00	VCI-00	OBO-00	
H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	CAC-00	M-00	VCIE-00	
NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	OPR-00	PA-00	
MCC-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	
FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSC-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	
USSS-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	
G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/000W			

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P 301819Z JAN 06  
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2916  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY SATIAGO PRIORITY  
 AMCONSUL URCAO PRIORITY  
 AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY  
 NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
 HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
 USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 000217

SIPDIS

HQSOUCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/30/2015  
 TAGS: PGOV, KDEM, VE  
 SUBJECT: ZULIA GOVERNOR ACCUSED OF COUP PLOTTING

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ROBERT R. DOWNES FOR 1.4 (D)

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Summary

1. (C) Zulia Governor and potential presidential contender Manuel Rosales is engaged in heavy mudslinging with the mayor of Venezuela's second largest city, Maracaibo. Mayor Gian Carlo Di Martino accuses Rosales of traveling to Bogota to meet with Colombian military officials and exiled Venezuelans who were plotting to overthrow the Chavez regime. Rosales,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON  
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)  
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 30 JAN 2026  
 DATE/CASE ID: 25 FEB 2009 200705281

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one of only two Venezuelan opposition governors, immediately denied the claims saying that he hadn't been to Colombia in years,

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[Redacted Box]  
End Summary.

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More Treason  
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2. (U) Zulia, a state in western Venezuela known for its political independence and still-considerable oil reserves, is proving to be an important political battleground in the run-up to December's presidential elections. Zulia Governor Manuel Rosales is embroiled in a political brawl with the mayor of Venezuela's second largest city Maracaibo. Mayor Gian Carlo Di Martino has accused Rosales of traveling to Bogota from July 22-23 to meet with Colombian military officials and exiled Venezuelans who were plotting to overthrow the Chavez regime. In addition to Rosales, Di Martino also alleged that former 2002 coup leader Pedro Carmona Estanga was present at this meeting.

3. (C) Rosales is a long-time political operator in Venezuela and one of only two governors from an opposition party.

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5. (U) This determination didn't end the accusations, however. In his statement, Chacon declared that while the document didn't prove Rosales' attendance at the meeting, the investigation would continue. For his part, Di Martino said it didn't matter that the signatures were fake; the statement on the paper is what was important. In retaliation, Rosales' supporters in the state legislature started their own investigation and have subpoenaed Di Martino three times to appear at hearings and present proof of his allegations. They also took out a full page newspaper advertisement castigating Di Martino for making false allegations and presenting fraudulent evidence. Di Martino has yet to appear at any of the hearings and all of the investigations are still ongoing.

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